

NEWINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2016

Chairman Bernadette Conway called the regular meeting of the Newington Open Space Committee to order at 6:36 p.m. in Room L-101 in the Newington Town Hall, 131 Cedar St., Newington, CT.

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Bernadette Conway
Commissioner Carol Wojtowicz
Commissioner Sharon Dunning
Commissioner Carol Anest
Commissioner Gail Budrejko

Town Staff Present:

None.

I. ROLL CALL

The presence of the above noted members was noted.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTSS

None were made.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. July 14, 2016:

The minutes were accepted unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

a. TPZ "Open Space" zone:

Discussion took place regarding the "Open Space" zone. The committee agreed that the Open Space Committee will craft a letter/statement to be presented at the TPZ meeting. The committee feels the Town shouldn't be exempt. The Town should be subject to zoning regulations, as well as not tying together the blight ordinance with the open space zone.

The committee discussed which open space to start with, to simplify and move along the Open Space zone. The properties discussed were the parcel of Cedar Mountain owned by the Town of Newington (Cedar Mountain South), Mill Pond Park, Churchill Park, Young Farm, Eddy Farm, the small neighborhood parks and the Town Green. It was decided to leave Indian Hill Country Club out for more discussion.

b. CT Greenway Nomination for form I-291 Parcel:

No new discussion took place.

c. Definition of “Open Space”

The committee reviewed the definitions provided for reference and started crafting a definition to continue working on at the next meeting.

d. Comprehensive Open Space Management Strategy

It was agreed that the Committee would wait until it has its own definition of “open space” before spending time developing a list of “open space” parcels.

e. North American Monarch Conservation Plan

Commissioner Conway stated that this is something to further look into as the Cedar Mountain South property would be a great candidate for a Monarch Butterfly migration route.

f. DEEP “Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition” Program

No further discussion took place

g. DEEP “Recreational Trails” program

Discussion took place that it would be beneficial to apply for this program for funds for the maintenance and update of many of the trails in town, and especially to update the trail booklets, or producing a better document or brochure of the trails and open space in town.

VI. Public Comments

None.

VII. Committee Member Comments

None.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Conway
Committee Chair